



TIMELINEZ

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

APRIL 1986

\$1.00

THE JOINT NEWSLETTER OF THE THREE TIMEX-SINCLAIR
USER GROUPS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
** EBZUG PUG SVSTUG **

PUG NEWS

by Norm Lehfeldt

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, NEW HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE ARE FEATURES OF MARCH MEETING

New interest in T/S telecommunications has been sparked by the availability of really cheap modems. (Uncased but operational 2050 modems have recently been marketed for as little as \$20.)

This was apparent at the March 16 PUG meeting which broke up into a number of informal seminars for those who had new modems and needed a few pointers on hooking them up and learning to use the various terminal programs available. We expect to continue this activity, perhaps including an on-line demonstration of electronic bulletin boards and data bases such as CompuServe, at the April 20 meeting.

Jack Dobany now claims to have completed his improvements to MSCRIPT (I say this somewhat skeptically because Jack seems always to be able to come up with further innovations!) and demonstrated it at the meeting.

The program is now compatible with virtually every mass-storage device and printer interface available for the 2068, offers keyboard options to suit personal tastes and has many other enhancements that make MSCRIPT the most versatile writing tool yet for the 2068. Its major remaining limitation is the text-storage limitation of the 2068 itself.

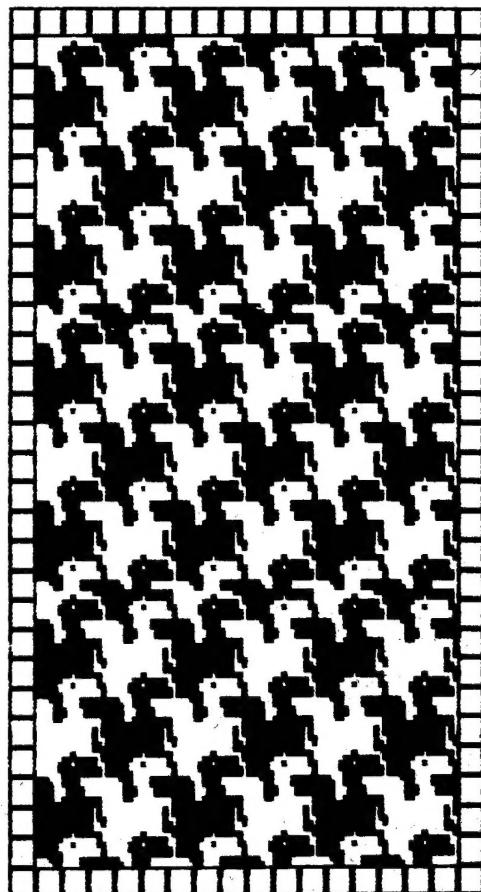
The improved program is available at modest cost directly from Jack to anyone who owns a legal copy of MSCRIPT. Sunset Electronics and other dealers have the original program in stock.

Thanks to Sunset Electronics, we had the new Spectrum 128 available for hands-on play at the meeting. The machine is conceptually similar to the Commodore 128...that is...two essentially incompatible machines in the same box. Data programs written for the 48K Spectrum cannot be easily expanded to take advantage of the extra RAM. Two game programs for the 128K mode are supplied with the machine. They had typical Spectrum graphics. One supposes that there are more rooms, levels, whatever, because of the expanded memory but we were not able (or interested enough) to play that long. For the curious, the machine is on display at Sunset.

See you at the April 20 meeting!!!

FLYING HORSES

by Walt Gaby



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A REVIEW OF SPECTRUM GAMES

by David Gray

DK'TRONICS strikes again with another smash hit "Spawn of Evil". The instructions are included on one side of the tape, while the program is on the other. "Spawn of Evil" is very similar to the 2068 version of Timegate, by allowing a 3-D perspective from the cockpit of a star fighter. Aliens, which continue to multiply, invade. Some aliens can clone themselves, while others attack with plasma bombs. The object is simply to destroy all of the aliens.

GRAPHICS : ****
SOUND EFFECTS : **
INTEREST : ***
SKILL LEVEL : *****

Another interesting game by DK'TRONICS is "Maziacs" which has been on the market from some time. It is almost identical to the Timex 1000 version of "Mazogs". Your object is to gain treasure to score points, by running through a maze containing hundreds of Maziacs. Food, in this game, is necessary to find. Swords are hidden in the randomly generated maze of madness, which allow a 100% chance of survival against Maziac attack. Without the sword, the chance is slim. Prisoners will guide you through the maze by giving you directions. Also, a view of the maze can be raised by pressing a button. The major difference between the Spectrum version and the 1000 version, is that the computer doesn't show the solution of the maze after the game is over! Why ?? I don't know!

GRAPHICS : ****
SOUND EFFECTS : **
INTEREST : ***
SKILL LEVEL : ****

"Pitfall II", by ACTIVISION has finally been released for the Spectrum. The object is the same as "Pitfall II" for all other popular computers. You must rescue your niece, Rhonda your mountain lion, Quickclaw, and the famous Raj Diamond. Your enemies are scorpions, condors, bats, electric eels, and poisonous frogs. There is an optional bonus for gaining possession of gold bars, and the capture of a legendary giant rat. The sound effects, (luckily), can be turned off by pressing the space bar. (This was not listed in the instructions). This is a shame, because the Spectrum only uses only one sound channel.

GRAPHICS : ****
SOUND EFFECTS : *
INTEREST : *****
SKILL LEVEL : *****

PUG MEMBERSHIP INFO

The PUG membership list has recently been entered into a new data-base file. Now would be a good time for all PUG members to review the data shown on their TIMELINEZ mailing label. Below is a key to the symbols shown next to your name on the label. If you would like to change any of the information shown there, please send any changes to Pat Morrissey at:

C.P. Morrissey
2000 Crystal Springs Road
Bldg 21, Apt 22
San Bruno, CA 94066

or give him a call at (415) 952-5068. He has now taken on the Secretary/Treasurer duties for PUG.

In addition, please make all MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION CHECKS out to "C.P. Morrissey" and send them to the same address.

We are considering issuing a membership directory, possibly in conjunction with the other two Bay Area Users Groups. It is possible that two versions of this directory would be produced, one for members only which would contain addresses and phone numbers (where known) in addition to some added data, e.g., areas of specialization which might be of interest to members, special hardware items, etc. A second version showing only names and addresses might be available to other interested parties (read that as known Timex/Sinclair product vendors). If you want to be excluded from either directory or if you want to include (or exclude) any special notes in the members-only directory, let Pat know.

PUG STATUS/DATE INFO on address labels:

The letter after your name indicates your PUG membership and TIMELINEZ subscription status.

- "A" - Full membership with all privileges.
- "N" - TIMELINEZ-subscription-only member.
- "E" - Newsletter Exchange program.
- "P" or "R" - Complimentary copy.

For categories "A" and "N", the date which follows indicates the last issue for which you have paid. PLEASE, send money to Pat before your membership expires to insure that you don't miss one exciting issue of TIMELINEZ. The other codes usually won't have a date listed on the label as these are subject to review on a month-to-month basis.

BY OLEG D. JEFIMENKO

Have you ever tried to copy drawings from the monitor screen with your 2040 printer? If you have, you know that the printer does not reproduce them correctly: circles become ellipses, squares become elongated and distorted, angles between slanted lines become enlarged or reduced. The reason for these changes is that 2040 printer uses a pixel grid with rectangular rather than with square cells (the original Sinclair printer used a pixel grid with square cells).

A simple adjustment of your PLOT or DRAW statements will produce geometrically correct prints of all curves, shapes, and patterns. All that you need to do is to divide the variable part of the x coordinates in the PLOT or DRAW statements by the "aspect ratio," A=0.82, or to multiply the variable part of the y coordinates by the same ratio. The effect of such an adjustment can be demonstrated with the following examples.

Program 1 (TS 1000 or 1500) draws a diagonal square on the monitor screen. When the square is printed by using the COPY command, the printer changes it into a "diamond," or rhombus (Fig. 1).

Program 2 draws the same square but incorporates the aspect-ratio correction. The print is now a true square, although somewhat distorted because of the low resolution of the computer (Fig. 2). Incidentally, the expressions placed in parentheses in lines 20-50 of Programs 1 and 2 are the variable parts of the x and y coordinates. The constant parts are the coordinates of the center of the square, x=31 and y=21. As mentioned above, only the variable parts need to be adjusted in order to produce correct prints.

Program 3 (TS 1000 or 1500) draws a circle on the monitor screen. When copied by the printer, the circle becomes an ellipse (Fig. 3).

Program 4 draws the same circle corrected for aspect ratio. The print is now a true circle (Fig. 4).

Program 5 (TS 2068) draws a slanted equilateral triangle on the monitor screen by using a DRAW statement (the same triangle can be drawn by using a PLOT statement, but DRAW is much faster). The printed copy of the triangle is badly distorted (Fig. 5).

Program 6 draws the same triangle corrected for aspect ratio. Now the triangle is equilateral, as it should be (Fig. 6).

Program 7 (TS 2068) draws a circle by using a CIRCLE statement. When copied, the circle becomes an ellipse (Fig. 7).

Program 8 draws the same circle by using a PLOT statement with aspect-ratio correction (there is no way to use the aspect-ratio correction with CIRCLE statements). The printed copy is a perfect circle (Fig. 8).

Naturally, you cannot use the same PLOT or DRAW statements to create a correct drawing both on the monitor screen and on the printout; one or the other will always be distorted.

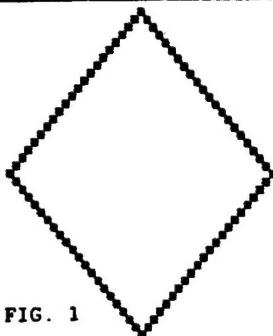


FIG. 1

```

10 FOR X=0 TO 21
20 PLOT 31+X,21-(21-X)
30 PLOT 31+(21-X),21+X
40 PLOT 31-X,21+(21-X)
50 PLOT 31-(21-X),21-X
60 NEXT X

```

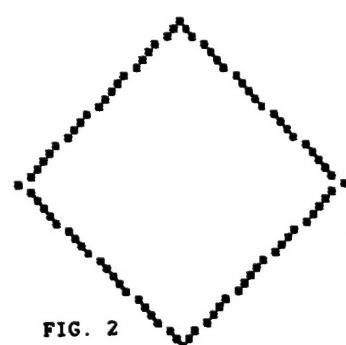


FIG. 2

```

10 FOR X=0 TO 21
20 PLOT 31+X/.82,21-(21-X)
30 PLOT 31+(21-X)/.82,21+X
40 PLOT 31-X/.82,21+(21-X)
50 PLOT 31-(21-X)/.82,21-X
60 NEXT X

```

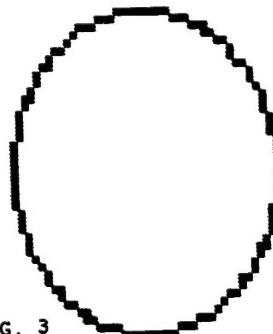


FIG. 3

```

10 FOR T=0 TO 2*PI STEP 1/21
20 PLOT 31+21+COS T,21+21+SIN
T
30 NEXT T

```

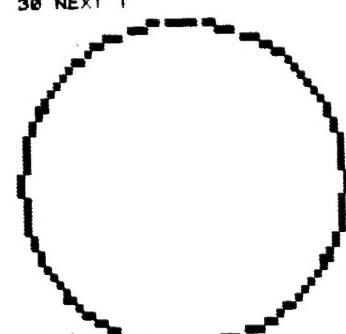


FIG. 4

```

10 FOR T=0 TO 2*PI STEP 1/21
20 PLOT 31+21+COS T/.82,21+21*
SIN T
30 NEXT T

```

What happens if you incorporate the aspect-ratio correction into the y coordinates rather than into the x coordinates? Remove the division by 0.82 in the above programs and multiply the variable parts of the y coordinates by 0.82 instead. The printed copies will be correct again, although smaller than before. For this reason it is usually safer to incorporate the aspect-ratio correction into the y coordinates: since the drawings become smaller, there is no danger of running out of screen when the correction is made.

As the final demonstration of the aspect-ratio correction, examine Figs. 9 and 10. They show the two ornamental designs created by Ted Knyszek (RAMTOP, December 1985, p. 3) corrected for aspect ratio. The original shapes were elliptical; the corrected ones are circular. The correction was made by using $y/0.82$ instead of y in the DRAW statements of the original programs.

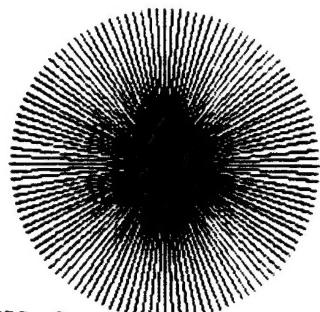


FIG. 9

```

5 FOR A=0 TO 360 STEP 3
10 LET X=80+5IN (A+PI/180)
20 LET Y=80+5COS (A+PI/180)
25 PLOT 128,87: DRAW X/.82,Y
30 NEXT A

```

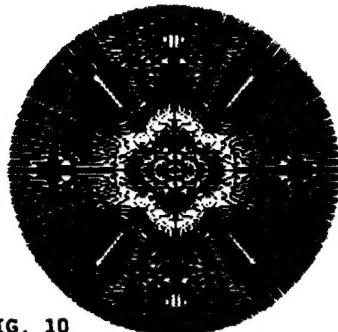


FIG. 10

```

10 OVER 1
20 LET LI=400
30 LET A=0: LET ANG=2*PI/LI
40 FOR I=1 TO LI
50 LET X=85+COS A
60 LET Y=85+5IN A
70 PLOT 128,88
80 DRAW X/.82,Y
90 LET A=A+ANG
100 NEXT I
110 OVER 0

```

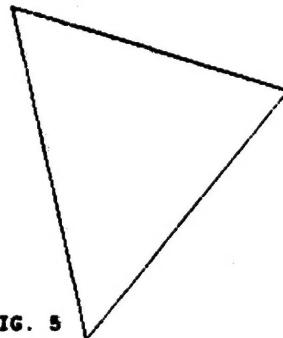


FIG. 5

```

10 PLOT 48,174
20 DRAW 174+5IN (PI/12),-174
30 DRAW 174-174+5IN (PI/12),174
40 DRAW -174,174+5IN (PI/12)

```

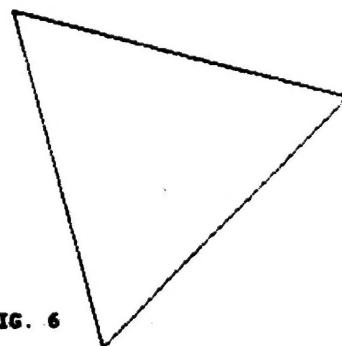


FIG. 6

```

10 PLOT 48,174
20 DRAW 174+5IN (PI/12)/.82,-174
30 DRAW (174-174+5IN (PI/12))/
.82,174-174+5IN (PI/12)
40 DRAW -174/.82,174+5IN (PI/12)

```

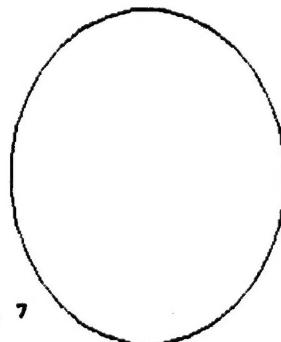


FIG. 7

```
10 CIRCLE 128,87,87
```

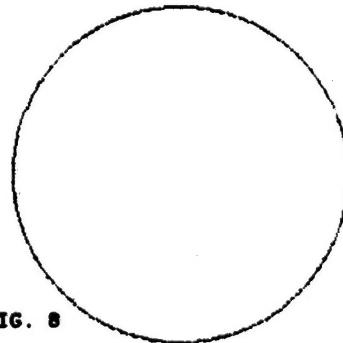


FIG. 8

```

10 FOR T=0 TO 2*PI STEP 1/87
20 PLOT 128+87*COS T/.82,87+87
*5IN T
30 NEXT T

```

EDITOR'S NOTE: For full-size printers, I find that an aspect ratio of .91 (rather than .82) works very well.

FROM THE MAR/APR 1986 ISSUE
OF TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE.

MID-WEST TS COMPUTERFEST OPENS MAY 3rd

Why are hundreds of Timex/Sinclair (and Sinclair) users gathering in Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 3rd and 4th, and coming from as far away as B.C.-Canada, California, Oregon, Texas, Florida, and New York? The reason? The MID-WEST TS COMPUTERFEST, being held at the RAMADA INN of Sherronville (a suburb of Cincinnati). This is the first major gathering of TS enthusiasts since the ZX/TS Celebration in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 22, 1983.

What's in store for those attending the Computerfest? Over 15 Sinclair vendors and related services will be on hand to demonstrate their wares. Some displays by vendors who are unable to attend will be staffed by volunteer Computerfest personnel. Two adjoining rooms at the convention facilities of the Ramada Inn will house all of the displays. A separate hospitality area has been reserved.

TS Computerfest officials told TIME DESIGNS that to date, the following vendors have reserved display space: E. Arthur Brown Company, Russell Electronics, Aerco, Zebra Systems Inc., Damco Enterprises, Knighted Computers, Time Designs Magazine Co., The TS Connection, TS Horizons, SUM Magazine, Foote Software, Thomas B. Woods, Syncware News, and JRC Software. Absentee Dealers thus far, are: Curry Computer, RMG Enterprises, Budget Robotics and the English Micro Connection. Three large users groups from Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland, will have display booths. Other users groups from out of state may also be represented.

To give a "sneak preview", Aerco will reportedly have their FD-68 Disc Interface up and running in CP/M mode. Zebra Systems will have the largest area, including their own hospitality suite. Zebra will have their new FD-3000 Portugal Disk System operating both in CP/M and Spectrum modes (WORDSTAR and MICROSOFT BASIC on the 2068!?). A technician from the TS Connection will be repairing faulty Sinclairs and available for questions. A planned program of demonstrations and guest speakers will continuously run the course of the Computerfest. Invited speakers include Thomas B. Woods discussing his Pro/File programs, and Randy and Lucy Gordon demonstrating the fine art of modeming and telecommunications.

The Mid-West TS Computerfest is the "brain child" of Frank Davis from Indiana. A volunteer committee of 13 individuals have planned the event (some traveling as far as 150 miles to make the Sunday afternoon meetings). Jack Roberts (of TS Connection fame), is the Executive Coordinator, and can be contacted for further details by writing to: The Mid-West TS Computerfest, 3832 Watterson Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45227. Tickets for the Computerfest may be purchased in advance by writing to the above address.

All in all, the Mid-West Computerfest is reported to have "a little something for everyone"...whichever machine you use; ZX81, 2068, or Quantum Leap. With the reasonable airline rates and gasoline prices, attendance should be quite good. After all, aren't most Sinclair users looking for a good deal, or a new programming trick?

FROM THE JAN/FEB 1986 SYNPSE
N/L OF THE CENTRAL PENN. USERS.

GLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGL
GL GL MICRODRIVE FORMATTER GL
GL BY BILL RUSSELL GL
GL GLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGLGL

This short program for the GL lets you format two microdrive cartridges automatically, one cartridge in each of the two microdrives. Run the program and input the number of times that you wish each cartridge to be formatted. The program will proceed until the specified formatting is completed.

Because formatting removes the "stretch" from new microdrive cartridges and conditions the surface of the tape, you will be able to store more programming on a cartridge after formatting several times. Since a cartridge is stabilized by repeated formatting, your stored programming or data is less likely to be damaged with time and use.

Most experienced GL users recommend formatting a new cartridge 10 times. Just enter "10" at the program prompt and go away for awhile. To manually enter and wait out 20 formatings separately would require some time and effort

```
100 REMARK FORMAT PROGRAM
105 INPUT "INPUT NUMBER OF FORMATS
DESIRED":IN
110 F X=1 TO N
120 FORMAT mdv1_
130 END FOR X
140 PRINT
150 FOR X=1 TO N
160 FORMAT mdv2_
170 END FOR X
```

FROM THE CCAT/S N/L IN OREGON.

My Favorite Triangle Dick Wagner

Here is a program short enough to make it fun. Sorry, it only works on the 2068. It is easy to follow through but just try putting it together the first time. Your eyes kind of get crossed.

```
5 PRINT " My Favorite Tria
ngle D.F.W."
20 PLOT 48,88: DRAW 0,-12: DRA
W 96,-48
30 DRAW 12,6: DRAW 0,96: DRAW
-12,6: DRAW -96,-48
40 DRAW 84,-42: DRAW 0,60
50 PLOT 144,28: DRAW 0,84
60 PLOT 156,130: DRAW -84,-42:
DRAW 60,-30
70 PLOT 144,112: DRAW -60,-30
```

WINTER DOLDRUMS, RUMORS MARK CURRENT QL SCENE

by
Norm Lehfeldt

Although there is no central, reliable source of figures, evidence seems to suggest that a steady trickle of QL's is escaping from the clutches of Sinclair U.S. QL hardware and software is featured in the catalogue of every dealer associated with the T/S machines and more QL users are turning up on CompuServe each week.

Those of us who jumped into the QL pool early are beginning to realize the full virtues of this machine. Tom Bent insists, in a front-page editorial in the latest SyncWare News, that, with a comparable investment, the QL is superior to the Atari ST and is not afflicted with the system bugs of the crash-prone Amiga (although he concedes the points on graphics to the Amiga).

As we learn to love the QL, Sinclair's somnolence becomes even more frustrating. The brief flurry of activity (discounts to dealers, etc.) that seemed to coincide with the departure of Nigel Searle from the U.S. operation, has now subsided and a rumor has circulated recently that Sinclair was not answering the phone.

Columnist and programmer Mark Fendrick says that good news is on the way--that Sinclair is about to become more visible in the U.S. market, although he is not at liberty to say more right now. This sounds like a distribution deal is in the works. You don't suppose that Sinclair and Timex . . . No, not even Sinclair would make THAT mistake twice!

The combination of the Miracle Systems Modaptor and its accompanying QCODE terminal software (available from Curry Computer) has put the QL on-line in a big way. Any RS232 modem can be used with the system which operates at baud rates up to 1200. I am using it with a TRS-80 MODEM 1 B which I picked up on sale for \$49.95.

Since the QL stores programs as well as text in ASCII code, it is no problem to up and download programs or text. In addition, the IMPORT command in Quill (word-processor) allows non-Quill formatted text files to be loaded for editing. Version 4.0 of QCODE, now being supplied, allows incoming data to be SAVED directly to microdrive with a file name you choose, so that multiple files may be saved on the same cartridge during a single on-line session (up to the capacity of the cartridge, of course). Files may also be transmitted directly from microdrive. To my mind, this is a superior system to the use of a RAM buffer.

Since the microdrives are widely perceived as the QL's Achilles heel, I want to say that I have encountered no reports of trouble with them other than the occasional bad cartridge. The only problem I have experienced is a single bad cartridge. And a little tinkering with the pressure-pad

spring fixed it. Discs would be nice on the QL but, since it would cost at least \$300 for an interface and drives, and since I find the microdrives perfectly reliable, I see no reason to spend the money yet. Obviously one's intended applications for the computer will dictate decisions about floppies and memory expansion.

When I first acquired my QL I wrote a quick review for these pages in which I was very hard on Quill. I still believe that it has some major problems (there is no way to turn justification completely off, for example), but as I have used it more, I have come to be more satisfied with it and believe it is perfectly acceptable for the kind of word-processing most of us do.

In these past few months I have done a little programming in SuperBASIC and have come to enjoy its advantages more. Those of us who made the relatively easy transition from ZX81 BASIC to 2068 BASIC must be prepared to make more substantial changes in our thinking to take advantage of the facilities of SuperBASIC. String slicing, for instance, one of the much-praised features of the earlier dialects is a little different on the QL, and can be quite frustrating until one grasps the changes.

Coercion in the handling of numeric and string data makes the STR\$ statement unnecessary (thus absent) in SuperBASIC: "LET a\$a" makes perfect sense in the new language.

There is a lot to discover on this machine, but it remains to be seen whether we will get enough of a user base for it to take off as it should.

That's still up to ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZinclair.

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* TEXTWRITER 1000 ENHANCEMENTS *

BY JOHN EZIKE

ONE OF THE BEST WORD PROCESSORS AROUND FOR THE ZX/TS COMPUTERS IS TEXTWRITER 1000 BY ROBERT FINGERLE (SEE REVIEW IN SYNC JAN/FEB 84). HOWEVER, THERE ARE A FEW ENHANCEMENTS THAT I FOUND WHICH MAKE IT EVEN EASIER TO USE.

IN TYPE MODE, SCREEN FLICKER CAN BE A BIT OF A PROBLEM. IF YOU HAVE A VIDEO INVERTER BOARD (SEE POPULAR ELECTRONICS 5/83) IT IS NOT SO BAD. THE FOLLOWING LINES WILL ELIMINATE SCREEN FLICKER, ENABLE AUTO REPEAT WHEN ANY KEY IS HELD DOWN, WITHOUT AFFECTING THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM. DELETING CHARACTERS WILL BE SLIGHTLY SLOWER. LOAD "" AND AFTER THE MENU COMES UP ENTER STOP (SHIFT A) TO BREAK OUT OF THE PROGRAM. ENTER, LIST 135 THEN TYPE AND ENTER 160 TO DELETE THE LINE. ADD THE FOLLOWING LINES.

140 SLOW
173 IF A\$="" THEN GOTO 170

THE FOLLOWING LINES SIMPLIFY THE TASK OF PRINTING MULTIPLE COPIES OF YOUR FILE. IF YOU ENTER OPTION 4 OR 5 FROM THE MAIN MENU A PROMPT WILL REQUIRE THAT YOU ENTER THE NUMBER OF COPIES YOU WANT. THE FAMILIAR PROMPTS REQUESTING THE START AND FINAL LINES WILL THEN BE DISPLAYED. ENTER LIST 80 AND USING THE DOWN CURSOR (SHIFT 5) AND EDIT KEYS (SHIFT 1) RENUMBER LINE 97 SO IT IS NOW LINE 98. ALSO RENUMBER LINE 95 SO IT IS NOW LINE 97. ADD THE FOLLOWING LINES.

86 IF LN=4 OR LN=5 THEN GOTO 9
5
88 GOTO 98
95 PRINT AT 16,0;"ENTER NUMBER OF COPIES"
96 INPUT NC
5535 FOR O=1 TO NC
5595 NEXT O

IN LINES 5535 AND 5595 THE "O" USED AS A VARIABLE IS THE LETTER AND NOT ZERO. ENTER GOTO 35 AND SELECT OPTION 3 FROM THE MENU TO SAVE. *DO NOT USE RUN*. THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN USING THE ENHANCED VERSION. HAPPY COMPUTING.

JOHN EZIKE
1619 GRANT ST. APT. 6
BERKELEY, CA 94703 **

=====

E R R A T A
(which is more than one erratum)

=====

Al Hartman, SYSOP for ZEBRA BBS, asks that readers take note of the following corrections to the telecommunications article by Ed Grey in the January issue of TIMELINEZ:

1. The ZEBRA BBS is located in Woodhaven, NY...not in Long Island. Woodhaven, he claims, is in Queens.

(Editor's Note: Not to quibble, but Queens...like Brooklyn...is on Long Island. Furthermore, Woodhaven is just up the street from the Schenck House...which IS in Brooklyn. Al is quite correct, however; Woodhaven IS in Queens.)

2. The MICRO SYSTEMS BBS no longer supports T/S users.
3. OMNI-NET BBS is NOT reached at (718) 296-2385! That is ZEBRA's ORDER LINE.
4. MINI-BIN BBS does not exist. The phone number shown in the Grey article is that of OMNI-NET... located not in Queens but (yes, you guessed it) in Brooklyn!

I have made all of the above corrections to my copy of the Grey article; I urge you to do the same!

=====

I REALLY HATE THIS DAMN MACHINE,
I WISH THAT I COULD SELL IT.
IT NEVER DOES QUITE WHAT I WANT,
BUT ONLY WHAT I TELL IT.

Passed on by John Shore in
"The Sachertorte Algorithm"

* * * * *

COMPUTER CALENDAR

* * * * *

A P R I L

20 Peninsula User Group 1:00
Peninsula Hospital
1783 El Camino Real
Burlingame

24 East Bay User Group 7:30
West Branch Library
1125 University Avenue
Berkeley

30 Silicon Valley User Group 7:00
Cupertino Library
10400 Torre Avenue
Cupertino

M A Y

3 Bay Area Computer Swap
Cow Palace
San Francisco 10 am to 5 pm
Admission: \$5

18 Peninsula User Group 1:00

22 East Bay User Group 7:30

27 Silicon Valley User Group 7:00

* * * * *

THE COMPUTER SHOW
EVERY WEDNESDAY, 8 TO 9 P.M.
TV STATION KSTS, CHANNEL 48

* * * * *

E B Z U G EAST BAY Z80 USER GROUP
654 40th STREET
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA 94805
(415) 234-3310

PRESIDENT: (VACANT)

MEETINGS: FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:30 P.M.
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PENINSULA HOSPITAL
1783 EL CAMINO REAL, BURLINGAME

**MAIL DUES TO "PAT MORRISSEY", 2000 CRYSTAL SPRINGS ROAD,
BLDG 21, APT 22, SAN BRUNO, CA 94066**

S V S T U G SILICON VALLEY SINCLAIR TECHNOLOGY USER GROUP
6675 CLIFFORD DRIVE
CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA 95014
(408) 253-3173

PRESIDENT: RITA CARR, (408) 738-2888, X-4579

MEETINGS: LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:00 P.M.
CUPERTINO LIBRARY
10400 TORRE AVENUE, CUPERTINO

MAKE CHECK FOR DUES PAYABLE TO "SINCLINK".

THIS TIMELINEZ NEWSLETTER IS A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE THREE
TIMEX-SINCLAIR USER GROUPS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA.

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SVSTUG (Silicon Valley Sinclair Timex User Group)
or SVTS de Silicon Valley?
NEWS
(Sinclair 4047)
By Bill Miller (408 253-3175)

This is being written using SPECTRAL WRITER and the Mafadrive (available from Banco Enterprises (617)670-2110).

We will try printing it out on the TS2040 Printer and also on an IBM-80 thru the parallel (Centronics) port (Channel) on the Mafadrive.

We will then SAVE it the text to the Mafadrive and print out a Mafadrive Directory using the CAT 8 command.

Upcoming SVSTUG meetings (At Cupertino Library- 7:00 P.M.)

April 30, Wednesday

May 27, Tuesday

June 26, Thursday

At the B40225 SVSTUG meeting, Terry Greenlee and Bill Miller demonstrated the TS2050 Modems and Tiny BBS for the TS2040.

Ed Burton of the Merced TI User Group (SVTS de Merced?) called to inquire about a schematic for a Kestrel compatible joystick interface for the Spectrum.

Can anyone help? Ed suspects it was in L.I.S.Tings (SVTS de Long Island?) about a year ago. I looked thru all SVSTUG's L.I.S.Tings but couldn't find it.

Don Mouray reports a Kestrel Compatible joystick interface designed by Steve Hyatt is available from G. Russel Electronics. It might be something to think about Ed.

I did find an excellent article on how to convert a Spectrum to U.S. power and TV by Bob Gilder in the B503 L.I.S.T. in Page 13, 14 and 15.

Thanks to Terry Greenlee and David Gray for borrowing the Spectrum and Mafadrives loaned to SVSTUG by AJB Microdrive.

Hopefully they will be able to figure out how to get the TS2050 Modem to work with them.

Thanks to Don Mouray for contributing a copy of Spectra to the SVSTUG library. Spectra is an I-MODEM protocol terminal program from Computer Answers Magazine for the Spectrum. Maybe someone can convert it to work with the Mafadrive and TS2040.

Thanks to Dale Ahlstrom for looking thru the B401 and B402 SVSTUG Newsletter Exchange File for articles of interest to 151000 users. Hopefully Dale will write us a report for TIMELINEZ.

Thanks to John Ezike for donating a ton of catalogs to the SVSTUG Catalog File. Can we get a volunteer to index these?

Thanks to John Harburtan of Sunset Electronics for loaning us a Spectrum 128 for demonstration at the B403a PUG meeting. Thanks to Mora Lehnfeldt for demonstrating the B403a. Boy, does it take a long time for 128 to load from cassette!

At the B40401 SVSTUG meeting interest in the TS2050 Modem deal from ZEBRA systems (718 296-2385) was high. Terry Greenlee reports that 10 of the 20 Modems (at \$7 each!) were sold.

Bill Miller demonstrated the Banco Mafadrive hooked to the Spectrum.

Welcome to new SVSTUG member Rich Silva.

SINCLAIR SOLD TO AMSTRAD

AS REPORTED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (APRIL 8), AMSTRAD CONSUMER ELECTRONICS HAS PURCHASED SINCLAIR RESEARCH LIMITED. THE AMOUNT PAID FOR THE SINCLAIR COMPANY WAS \$7.3 MILLION.

THE ARTICLE INDICATES THAT, ALTHOUGH THE SINCLAIR FIRM WAS HAVING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, THE SALE WAS UNEXPECTED. THE ARTICLE CONSIDERS THIS SALE AS "THE END OF AN ERA"!

AMSTRAD CURRENTLY PRODUCES ITS OWN COMPUTER, WITH SALES OF 750,000 IN 1985 AND EXPECTED SALES OF ONE MILLION IN 1986. AMSTRAD'S DISTRIBUTION NETWORK IN THE U.S. IS THROUGH SEARS.

AN AMSTRAD SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT THEY WILL BEGIN MANUFACTURING SINCLAIR COMPUTERS AS SOON AS CONTRACTS WITH EXISTING SUPPLIERS EXPIRE LATER THIS YEAR.

MEANWHILE, SIR CLIVE WILL RETURN TO HIS FIRST LOVE...BEING AN INVENTOR!

T/S REPAIRS AT SUNSET

Sunset Electronics is now offering repair work on Timex-Sinclair computers. Rex Lundgren (PUG member) is performing the repairs in conjunction with Sunset. To our knowledge, this is the first time anyone west of the Mississippi has offered this service. (You will recall recent articles on hardware modifications by Rex in TIMELINEZ.) For further information, call Sunset Electronics at 415-665-8330 or stop in at 2254 Taraval Street in San Francisco, California 94116.

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Advertising Schedule

Full Page	\$40
Half Page	\$25
1/4 Page	\$15
1/8 Page	\$10

Published monthly by the Timex/Sinclair User Groups in the SF-Oakland-San Jose areas. Sent to all current members. \$15 annual dues.

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First Class Mail